

REMARKS

The claims remaining in this patent application following amendment are Claims 1-17, inclusive. No claims have been cancelled. Claim 17 is recited for the first time. Claims 12-14 and 16 have been amended. Original Claims 1-11 have been allowed.

Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the patent to McGaffey, et al. (6,340,936). This rejection is respectfully traversed. To this end, Independent Claim 12 has been amended to recite a vibrating push button station to provide a tactile signal to a user, said vibrating push button station comprising a push button, a permanent magnet coupled to said push button, and a coil axially aligned with and spaced longitudinally from said permanent magnet to which a current is applied to generate a changing magnetic field and thereby cause the permanent magnet to be pulled towards and pushed away from said coil, the movements of said permanent magnet towards and away from said coil being transmitted to said push button as said tactile signal. It is submitted that the applicants' vibrating push button station as recited in Independent Claim 12, amended, is distinguishable from any reasonable interpretation of McGaffey, et al.

More particularly, nowhere is there shown in McGaffey, et al. a permanent magnet as is otherwise claimed by the applicants herein. While McGaffey, et al. describes a complex solenoid arrangement, it is the express intent of the present application to overcome the complexities and space consumption of such a solenoid arrangement (e.g., see paragraphs 0004 and 0005 of the applicants' specification) by eliminating the vibrating solenoid (39) and the chatter created by the moving pin (33) associated therewith. What is more, the applicants' claimed vibrating push button


station includes a coil which is axially aligned with and spaced longitudinally from the permanent magnet so that the permanent magnet can be pulled towards and pushed away from the coil, said movements of the permanent magnet being transmitted to the push button as a tactile signal.

In the case of McGaffey, et al., a coil is positioned so as to surround a ferro-magnetic solenoid member 39. Thus, such ferro-magnetic solenoid member 39 of McGaffey, et al. is not axially aligned with and spaced longitudinally from the coil and, accordingly, is not pulled towards and pushed away from the coil to create vibration forces that are transmitted to a push button as a tactile signal. In fact, McGaffey, et al. requires a steel enclosure (35, 47 and 53) around the coil to form a magnetic path for causing the solenoid 39 to move. What is still more, and as pointed out in Claim 13, amended, the applicants' permanent magnet pushes and pulls the flexible diaphragm to which it is coupled. In the case of McGaffey, et al., the solenoid pushes the flexible diaphragm in one direction, but it is the natural spring action of the diaphragm alone which causes the diaphragm to move in an opposite direction. For these reasons, it is believed that Independent Claim 12 and Dependent Claim 13, amended, are patentable over the teachings of McGaffey, et al. Inasmuch as Independent Claim 12, amended, is believed to be patentable, each of Claims 13-16 which depend therefrom are likewise believed to be patentable.

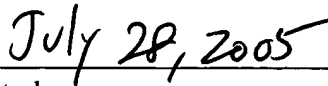
Claim 17 has been recited for the first time. Claim 17 depends from Independent Claim 1. Inasmuch as Independent Claim 1 is indicated to be allowed, Claim 17 should likewise be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, each of Claims 1-17 now appearing in this patent application is believed to recite a patentable vibrating push button station. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Paulette A. Fritz, do hereby certify that the foregoing documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Box: No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date of July 28, 2005.

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